

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 19, 2005 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Claims 1 and 7 are currently amended. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-9 have been previously presented.

Claim 5 has been previously canceled.

A check and a Request for Three Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1-3, and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,600,378 to Wasilewski. Claim 1 has been currently amended, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include a data processing system for data received by a broadcast data receiver provided for receiving multiple transport streams of digital data being transmitted from a remote location and may be from different sources. The receiver is provided with means that allow the selection and combination of packets of data from the multiple streams of data when multiplexed into a signal stream of data in response to control commands. The data in each stream including a series of packets of data provided with associated codes to indicate the type of data such as video, audio and/or auxiliary. The selected packets of data from the single stream of data combined from the single stream of data and the single stream of data is then further processed to generate data therefrom. Each stream of data includes a transport packet of packet identification codes for each of the packets of data in the stream. A transport stream identification code is added to each of the packets of the received streams of digital data such that the transport stream identification code for each packet allows identification and differentiation of each of the packets, the specific stream of data from which they originate and selection of the appropriate data packets from the single stream of data received by the receiver.

The '378 patent to Wasilewski does not teach Applicant's currently amended claim 1 and therefore Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Examiner Salce has indicated that the transport stream identifier (TSID) in the '378 Wasilewski patent is the same as in Applicant's invention. However, Applicant believes there are fundamental differences between the Wasilewski TSID and the TSID disclosed in Applicant's invention. In the '378 Wasilewski patent, the TSID transport stream identifier has a number carried in certain specific packets within a single transport stream that allows programs (logical channels) to be "found" by cross referring the tuning information carried in the NIT table (which is a packet carrying specific details within the single transport stream).

However, in Applicant's invention the aim is to solve a different problem and the solution described by Wasilewski, i.e. that of using TSID information would not provide a working solution to the problems solved by Applicant's invention.

The problem addressed by Applicant's invention is for a set top box decoder system that has more than one tuner and, therefore, has to process more than one transport stream of data which are received at the same time. Each transport stream includes a multiplicity of programs and the set box is made of demultiplex/decoder components that do not directly support multiple transport stream interfaces.

In order to allow the set top box in Applicant's invention to deal with the multiple streams, the plurality of transport streams are multiplexed together to form a single combined transport stream that can then be received and processed by the decoder components that are available in the set top box. The conventional approach when combining two or more transport streams into one stream requires considerable manipulation of the content and pay load of the data packets of the streams in order to produce a valid and coherently understandable single stream of data. However, Applicant's

invention avoids this costly processing procedure by adding a marker to every packet of each transport stream in such a way that when the data is received on a single transport stream interface at the decoder, the decoder is able to logically differentiate data from the multiple streams which have been multiplexed into the single stream and then select and process the data from each of the streams as if they had been received as independent and separate streams. This is possible because the closed system of the decoder has knowledge of which streams it has marked and from which source they came. Thus, the single stream which is created in this way would not be suitable for arbitrary broadcasting to multiple receivers, as the local knowledge and control is unique to each receiver.

Therefore it can be easily seen that the use of Wasilewski's TSID packet would not provide a solution to the problem solved in Applicant's invention. For instance, when the multiplicity of transport streams were combined in the Wasilewski patent, the decoder, although able to find the packets which contained a TSID, would not be able to determine which of the many other packets in the combined stream belong to which TSID as they do not all carry an indicator.

Applicant's claim 1 as now amended provides that every packet of the multiple transport streams are provided with a tag or marker in such a way that the source of each transport stream becomes known to the decoder as the composite single stream is processed. In addition, claim 1 has been further amended to refer to receiving multiple transport streams of digital data each of which in most cases contain multiple streams of digital data and to allow the identity of each stream. Clearly these features are not taught or suggested in the '378 Wasilewski patent and therefore Applicant believes currently amended claim 1 along with dependent claims 2-3, and 5-6 are novel over the Wasilewski patent.

Claims 4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,600,378 to Wasilewski in view of United States Patent No. 6,351,474 to Robinett et al.

Claim 4 depends upon currently amended independent claim 1. Applicant believes that claim 4 is novel over both of the cited references.

Claim 7 has been currently amended to include a method for the generation of a single stream of data for subsequent processing, from multiple transport streams of data, including the steps of receiving a number of transport streams of data; selecting packets of data in accordance with user and/or receiver selection criteria; multiplexing the selected packets of data into a single stream of data; allocating a transport stream identification code to each of the received transport streams of data; allocating a packet identification code to each packet of data; controlling the selection of the appropriate transport stream identification code for the particular transport stream of data in which the data packet to be selected is located when the selection of a data packet is required; selecting the required data packet once the appropriate transport stream is identified therefrom with reference to a match between the packet identification code for that transport stream of data and the packet identification code allocated to each of the packets; and repeating the steps for each of the data packets required to form the single stream of data.

Applicant's currently amended method claim 7 relates to the fact that every packet of the multiple transport streams is provided with a packet identification code so that the source of each transport stream is known to the decoder as the composite single stream is processed. This feature is not suggested or taught in either the Robinett or Wasilewski references.

The '474 patent to Robinett et al is directed toward a sophisticated packet payload manipulation to be processed and does not teach or suggest the steps in Applicant's currently amended claim 7.

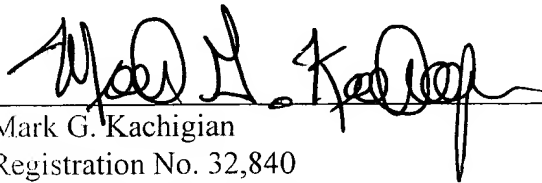
Applicant sincerely believes that currently amended method claim 7 with dependent claims 8 and 9 is novel over the cited references.

Applicant believes that it is improper to combine references to achieve the invention under consideration unless there is some incentive or suggestion in the references to do so.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any fees or charges are associated herewith, please credit deposit Account No. 08-1500.

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Date: 19 April 2006